

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A cathode plate for electrolytic recovery of metal said plate including a cathode plate and a hanger bar, said hanger bar comprises a corrosion resistant support element connected to the blade at the cathode plate and an electrically conductive metal cladding affixed thereto, the electrically conductive metal cladding extending over at least a portion of the support element to the cathode blade and part way down the cathode blade.

2. (Original) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support element is constructed from stainless steel.

3. (Original) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said support element is hollow.

4. (Currently Amended) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed such that it covers the entire exterior of the support element.

5. (Currently Amended) A cathode plate as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed such that it covers a portion of the support element.

6. (Currently Amended) A cathode plate as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by an interference fit.

7. (Currently Amended) A cathode plate as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by welding.

8. (Original) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 7, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element and/or cathode blade by aluminium bronze weld.

9. (Original) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 7, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element and/or cathode blade by silicone bronze weld.

10. (Currently Amended) A hanger bar claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed to the support element by mechanical and/or chemical fastening.

11. (Currently Amended) A cathode plate as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the support element and electrically conductive metal cladding are affixed by coextrusion.

12. (Currently Amended) A cathode plate as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed to the support element by roll forming.

13. (Original) A cathode plate as claimed in claim 12, wherein the cladding extends from the support element to a position 30 to 40 mm above the metal deposition area on the cathode blade.

14. (Currently Amended) A hanger bar as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the blade is stainless steel.

15. (Currently Amended) A hanger bar as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive metal is copper.

16. (Original) A method of producing a cathode plate for electrolytic recovery of metal comprising a cathode blade, connecting a corrosion resistant support element to the cathode blade, said element being adapted to support the cathode plate in an electrolytic bath, and affixing a cladding of electrically conductive metal to the support wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding extends over at least a portion of the support element to the cathode blade and part way down the cathode blade.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the cladding is affixed to the support element after connection of the support element and cathode blade.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~16 or claim 17~~ 16, wherein the cladding is affixed to the support element before connection of the support element to the cathode blade.

19. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 16 to 18~~ claim 16, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by an interference fit.

20. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 16 to 19~~ claim 16, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by welding.

21. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element and/or cathode blade by aluminium bronze weld.

22. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element and/or cathode plate by silicone bronze weld.

23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 15 to 20~~ claim 16, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by chemical or mechanical fastening.

24. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 15 to 22~~ claim 16, wherein the support and electrically conductive metal cladding are affixed by roll forming.

25. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 15 to 24~~ claim 16, wherein the cathode blade and/or support element are constructed from stainless steel.

26. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 15 to 25~~ claim 16, wherein the electrically conductive metal is copper.